

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8965
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
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AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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DAKAR ALSO FOR DAO

YAOUNDE FOR AMBASSADOR BYRNE

E. O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: PRESIDENT TRAORE'S VERSION OF ABORTED COUP

REF: BAMA KO 1248 (NOTAL)

(BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED)

1. MALIAN PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE MET MORNING OF MARCH 17
WITH ARMY UNITS FROM BAMA KO AND KATI MILITARY CAMPS
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TO EXPLAIN RECENT SCHISM IN MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR
NATIONAL LIBERATION (CMLN), WHICH CULMINATED IN THE
ABORTED COUP AND IMPRISONMENT OF MINISTERS OF DEFENSE,
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND PUBLIC WORKS, AND DIRECTOR OF
SECURITY SERVICES--ALL CMLN MEMBERS. THE SPEECH WAS
BROADCAST IN FULL THAT EVENING ON RADIO MALI.

2. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE CRISIS HAD ITS ORIGIN IN HIS CONFRONTATIONS JANUARY 3 AND 5 WITH DEFENSE MINISTER DOUKARA OVER THE LATTER'S MALVERSATION. DOUKARA, REALIZING THAT THE PRESIDENT KNEW ALL, PLOTTED WITH DIRECTOR OF SECURITY SERVICES BAGAYOKO AND MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS DEMBELE TO "ELIMINATE" THE PRESIDENT AND THOSE LOYAL TO HIM ON CMLN. FOREIGN MINISTER CISSOKHO HAD AGREED TO LEAD NEW GOVERNMENT AS TITULAR PRESIDENT.

3. THE PRESIDENT DETAILED TO TROOPS TWO PLANS WHICH DOUKARA AND HIS COLLABORATORS HAD ELABORATED. THE FIRST PLAN WAS TO PRESENT TO REGULAR CMLN MEETING MARCH 2 TRUMPED-UP CORRUPTION CHARGES AGAINST MINISTER OF EDUCATION YOUSSEF TRAORE, DEMAND THE RESIGNATION OF ALL CMLN MEMBERS, AND NAME CISSOKHO AS PRESIDENT. IF THAT PLAN FAILED, CERTAIN WOMEN WERE CUED TO LEAD A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST CMLN HEAD-QUARTERS DEMANDING REINSTATEMENT OF FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE WOMEN'S UNION (UNFM), MME FATOU TALL. POLICE AND GENDARMERIE UNITS IN BAMAKO, CLAIMING TO BE OVERWHELMED, WERE THEN TO CALL IN THE ARMY PARATROOP UNIT. UNDER COVER OF DISTURBANCES, THE PARATROOPERS WERE TO ELIMINATE THE PRESIDENT AND HIS COHORTS.

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4. DURING HIS SPEECH TO THE TROOPS, PRESIDENT TRAORE INTRODUCED ALL REMAINING CMLN MEMBERS--LT. COLONELS AMADOU BABA DIARRA (VICE PRESIDENT AND MINISTER OF PLAN), YOUSSEF TRAORE (MINISTER OF EDUCATION), FILIFING SISSOKO (SECRETARY GENERAL, CMLN), MAMADOU SANOGO (MINISTER OF JUSTICE), MISSA KONE (MINISTER OF HEALTH), AND JOSEPH MARA (MAYOR OF KATI--AS FAITHFUL SOLDIERS WHO REMAINED LOYAL TO THEIR COMMANDER AND COUNTRY. IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL INVECTIVE AGAINST THE "BAND OF THREE," PRESIDENT SINGLED OUT COMMANDER OF THE BAMAKO PARATROOP BATTALION SAMAKE AND GENDARMERIE CHIEF OF STAFF DIALLO AS PLOTTERS. THE PRESIDENT CALLED EX-FOREIGN MINISTER CISSOKHO A SENSUAL FEUDALIST, A WEATHERVANE TURNING IN THE WINDS OF HIS EGOISTIC INTERESTS. (END UNCLASSIFIED, BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

5. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH CONFIRMS DETAILS OF THE COUP AS RUMORED IN STREET GOSSIP OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS. THE CRITICISM OF THE EX-FOREIGN MINISTER IS THE BITTEREST WE HAVE NOTED TO DATE CONCERNING HIM, THOUGH THAT OF THE "BAND OF THREE" HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY HARSHER. SINCE PRESIDENT TRAORE

PRAISED LOYALTY OF REMAINING CMLN MEMBERS AND BROUGHT
THEM WITH HIM ON THIS VISIT TO TROOPS AS DEMONSTRATION
OF SOLIDARITY, WE DISCOUNT LINGERING RUMORS THAT
MORE MEMBERS OF CMLN MAY SOON BE ARRESTED. THE PRESIDENT

IS SCHEDULED TO MEET OTHER UNITS THROUGHOUT MALI TO EXPLAIN
RECENT EVENTS IN PERSON.
GRANER

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